

Ms.  
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The Gift of George A. Plimpton

Nevill Maskelyne. D.D. (as he afterwards  
-omer Royal,

as it illustrates in a very remarkable m

~~How the ...~~



...taken ~~for~~ <sup>an affected fool who</sup>  
...with more reason than the  
...of his taciturnity, it will  
~~...the~~ Candidate valued the  
...of Ottag, & his supporters,  
official weight deserved.

...son shortly embarked in the  
...Sir John Lindsay, for Barbados.  
...at Spithead on March 28<sup>th</sup>, arrived  
...13<sup>th</sup> of May. 'The Timeskeeper'  
...for they were distant from their  
...settled Longitude of Barbados,  
...the land, William Harrison  
& Sir John Lindsay sailed in con-  
...vation till eleven o'clock at  
...dark, he thought proper to  
...they were then no more than  
...from the land, which accordingly  
...from that distance.

...ity between John Harrison &  
~~...the~~ ~~...the~~ may be in  
...senior persons, who found  
...it has never appeared in  
...author is aware, & ~~was most~~  
~~thus shown.~~ — On William Har-



91

pretend

Chap. 6.



Ms.  
921  
1820  
vol. 3

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The Gift of George A. Plimpton

Nevill Maskelyne D.D. (as he afterwards became) & Astronomer Royal,

as it illustrates in a very remarkable manner that <sup>direct</sup> opposition ~~which the~~



A. M. might have been taken for ~~an affected fool~~ <sup>for a Jesuit,</sup> ~~no~~ <sup>for a Jesuit,</sup> no command of his speech, with more reason than the Spectator <sup>for a Jesuit,</sup> or account of his taciturnity, it will not be supposed the ~~candidate~~ <sup>(inevitable)</sup> candidate valued the good wishes of this descendant of Ottho, & his supporters, more than their philosophical weight deserved.

William Harrison shortly embarked in the  
Tartar Frigate, Capt.<sup>n</sup> Sir John Lindsay, for Barbadoes.  
Which ship, having left Spithead on March 28.<sup>th</sup> arrived  
at that Island on the 13.<sup>th</sup> of May. The Timeskeeper  
all along showing how far they were distant from their  
port, according to the best settled Longitude of Barbadoes.  
The day before they made the Land, William Harrison  
declared the Distance, & Sir John Lindsay sailed in con-  
sequence of his declaration till eleven o'clock at  
night, which proving dark, he thought proper to  
lie by, being informed they were then no more than  
eight or nine miles from the Land; which accordingly  
at Daybreak they saw from that Distance.

The animosity between John Harrison & ~~that same old adversary Dr. Mackay~~ may be in the recollection of some ~~few~~ senior persons, who form this, but the origin of it has never appeared in print, as far as the author is aware, & ~~was most extraordinary, as is thus shown.~~ Dr William Mar-



Astronomers showed towards the mechanics, it derives  
 these an interest that may adapted to insure attention.

~~new paragraph~~

— Dr. Maskelyne, we have before said, made a private  
 voyage to St. Nelesse to verify the Longitude of that island,  
 & others in the ~~Atlantic~~ <sup>Atlantic</sup>, by lunar observations; but in-  
 -sincerely, & indeed principally ~~as~~ as appears by what fol-  
 -lows) to establish a claim of having been the first per-  
 -son that reduced that method effectually to practice  
 at sea: & showed its superiority to the mechanical  
mode of attaining the same object. — He now gave the  
 fruits of his nautical excursion to the public, in a pamph-  
 let, under an elaborate title, which bears the date of this  
 year (1763) but must have been published after he had em-  
 -barked in the Princeps Louise for Barbadoes; & also after  
 the Tartar had sailed (in the end of March) for the same  
 destination: for the Harrison's appear to have been <sup>quite</sup> ignorant,  
 in the mean time, of what was going on, & might have remain-  
 -ed so, but for the following extraordinary scene. — The  
 "William Harrison's landing



~~at Barbadoes~~ at Barbadoes, he was told that M<sup>r</sup>. Maskelyne was a candidate for the premium for the discovery of the Longitude, & therefore they (his informants) thought it very odd that he should be sent to take the observations, to judge another man's scheme by; M<sup>r</sup>. Maskelyne having declared, in a very public manner, that he had found the Longitude himself. and he had also shown a letter from a friend, who ~~was~~ said — "he was very sorry that the Commissioners should have given him the trouble of this second voyage, before they gave him the reward." Therefore it was plain from this, that the Astronomer's friends were well acquainted with what intention he went to Barbadoes.

William Harrison acquainted Sir John Lindsay with these facts, who agreed with him, that such this being the case, M<sup>r</sup>. Maskelyne must certainly be a very improper person to take the observations of equal altitude, according to the instructions from the Board of Longitude. — Therefore, the next day, when they came to the observatory, William Harrison told M<sup>r</sup>. Maskelyne what he had heard, ~~and~~ produced witnesses to what he said, & did insist that he should not observe. And Sir John Lindsay declared, "that if M<sup>r</sup>. Harrison did insist upon it, he did the same; for he did not think it was right that M<sup>r</sup>. Maskelyne should observe; as he could not deny but what M<sup>r</sup>. Harrison said was true." — This put M<sup>r</sup>. Maskelyne into great confusion; & he alleged, that if he was not to observe, it would be a great dishonour to him; & therefore he insisted upon it, he must. — After a long



(politicians he means) may be expected

was little consistent with ~~insurance current~~  
showed, as  
corrected



Time spent in this dispute; William Harrison agreed that  
he should observe; provided that M<sup>r</sup>. Green took the  
next observation. — M<sup>r</sup>. Maskelyne then went to work,  
but was so confused with the above, that his observations  
were scarcely to be depended on. ~~For~~ For every person pre-  
sent could see, that he set some of his observations down  
dubious, when, at the same time there was not a cloud  
near. Nor was he in a condition to adjust his instruments.

Lord Chesterfield's remark on the French petit ma-  
tres ~~politicians~~, that <sup>the</sup> "when mellowed by time, they  
after make very able men;" ~~may be extended & applied~~  
with some indulgence to D<sup>r</sup>. Maskelyne; whose precipitate  
& extravagant demeanor, at this period, ~~gave no indication~~  
~~of the acknowledged abilities he afterwards displayed~~  
as an astronomer, <sup>& mathematician,</sup> when his pretensions were ~~more mellowed~~  
by experience. He was no sooner disembarked at Bridge  
Town, but with all the indiscretion of a young man, &  
enough of the self conceit, its concomitant, unmindful  
moreover of the monitor his sacred profession should have  
placed before him, who says, "A word fitly spoken, in  
due season, is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."  
He drew attention, in the coffeehouse & virandas, by his  
own unqualified assumption of the discovery so long  
sought after; as if the observations of equal altitudes,  
he had been sent out to take, & for which he was to



~~singular circumstance~~ most singular & important

~~own that your~~ Mastectomy

was brought forward,

~~to him~~ to be



receive £300, besides his expenses, were but an affair of  
secondary consideration — incidentally connected only  
with the far more important & especial purpose of  
lunar discoveries. \* Had he been refused leave to observe,  
which he had so imprudently put in the power of the  
junior Harrison to enforce, certainly great dishonour  
would have attached to this unexpected candidate for  
the reward; whereas he might have added, the loss  
of his handsome pay, ~~and the refusal of his expenses~~ <sup>the refusal</sup> of his expenses,  
& the utter <sup>subversion</sup> of his future prospects, either for achieving  
the Longitude, or lunar sleeves. But the most ~~unpleasant~~  
~~circumstance~~ in this ~~strange~~ <sup>jar</sup> ~~between~~ interests so  
diametrically opposed, is the passage in his friends  
letter; which ~~it savours more of the Gallie soil than his~~  
~~should have shown to those that would not~~  
~~their eyes or their glasses to see it.~~ It seriously impeach-  
es the candour & fair dealing of his patrons behind the cur-  
tain; for no one can believe that Dr. Shepherd, by whom  
~~he was recommended, & who had introduced him to the~~  
~~junior Harrison no further than as a gentleman of~~  
~~respectable pretensions to astronomy & the mathemat-~~  
~~ics could be ignorant~~ <sup>have been</sup> either of his first voyage, or  
of his ulterior object in the present: though he had







been formally applied to, in appearance, like Mess<sup>rs</sup>  
Bradley, Robison & Green, to know if he chose to go  
out to take the observations at Barbadoes, connected  
with the trial of the Timekeeper. He was not in the  
same ship with it, but embarked in the Princess  
Louisa, Admiral Tyrrell, which ~~ship~~<sup>vessel</sup> preceded the  
Tartar: & had he succeeded in ~~the trial~~

~~the trial~~  
~~the trial~~  
~~the trial~~  
~~the trial~~  
~~the trial~~  
~~the trial~~  
~~the trial~~  
~~the trial~~  
~~the trial~~  
~~the trial~~  
finding the Longitude, ~~which~~ if only  
within the lowest degree prescribed, of which, notwith-  
-standing his exuberant spirits, there was no testimony,  
there is too much reason to believe every expedient would  
have been resorted to by the lunar party, to put this disin-  
-genuous competition on a level with the open & fair  
enterprise of the inventor of the Timekeeper: whose  
rival, even if he had succeeded to the fullest extent  
was not original in the method he pursued; though  
he might be so in substituting the anticipation of  
his success for the reality of it; in a manner, that  
must have disconcerted his complaisant friends, who



would nullify the ~~very~~ management of this affair, &  
~~ask of them,~~  
~~which from the necessity~~ ~~was~~ of saving ~~his~~ appearances, ~~he would have~~  
 to deny their constenance of such proceedings. — Now the  
 Admirals, & the Civilians, were to be argued into an acqui-  
 -esence ~~in this~~ with this step, had the strategic party, ~~the~~  
~~leading~~ conforming to his friend's notion, voted him the re-  
 -ward (after the return from St. Helena) without giving  
 "him the trouble of this second voyage," does not appear.  
 & certainly, a slight cross of amputation, would have ~~the~~  
 -bited all concerned in ~~this~~ <sup>The</sup> scheme in a view uncommon-  
 -ly ridiculous.



could not have divined his sanguine temperament  
~~would burst a very secret in a way~~  
~~called on them~~ ~~to disallow~~ ~~very~~ ~~their counterclaim~~  
~~of such proceedings.~~

William Harrison before he left England was  
informed that the Admiral at Barbadoes would have  
orders to ship him home again; but when he came  
there, the Commander was at another place, nor could he  
find any directions about his return: so he took his  
passage home in a merchant ship. They sailed from  
Barbadoes June 4.<sup>th</sup> & he got home on the 18.<sup>th</sup> of July: but  
his Father could not get a Board of Longitude called  
till the 18.<sup>th</sup> of September. At which, after the astronom-  
ical observations were verified, you find 'Resolved - That  
the said observations be referred to three Gentlemen of skill,  
to make the calculations mentioned in the aforesaid Reso-  
lutions; & that M<sup>r</sup>. Harrison be at liberty to name three  
persons also for the same purpose: - A proper resolution  
this - but manifestly impugning their former refusal on  
this subject, which was now to be imputed to the unlimited  
control of the late Astronomer Royal; from whose nomination  
- or they likewise deviated in toto; for as the first computers  
were all strangers to John Harrison, then, on the contrary  
were all of his acquaintance. They were Capt. Campbell,  
D<sup>r</sup>. Bevis, & M<sup>r</sup>. George Wicksell (Master of the Academy at  
Portsmouth.) He availed himself no further of the







liberty to nominate an equal number, on his own part, than  
the name M. Short, as if by way of exercising his right, for  
he was satisfied with the Gentlemen they had chosen.

<sup>It may here be</sup>  
This is the place to observe that D<sup>r</sup>. Bradley  
died during the first voyage for the discovery of the  
Longitude; & that it was the will of Providence, his  
successor, Nathaniel Bliss M. A. should not survive  
the second. Connected with this subject the Author finds  
the following remarkable account of the Board, in a pri-  
vate letter of William Harrison's, addressed to his father  
in <sup>under date</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> September 20. 1764. After a few prefatory  
words, & giving a list of the Commissioners present, cleo-  
-er in number, he says. 'They were all as agreeable as  
' could be, Parsons & all, as they have now lost their ring-lea-  
'-der. They gave us a thousand pounds, as by agreement, &  
' then nominated three Gentlemen on their part, to compute  
' the observations; & ordered me to nominate three on our  
' part. Which six Gentlemen are to give in their computan-  
' tions on, or before, the last day in October; then another  
' Board will be called. The chair is dead: as to the Moon,  
' there was nothing said about it. I have, I thank God!  
' as fine a prospect before me as can be: you must at  
' this time excuse haste, &c'

Enough is here seen here to indicate the complex-  
' ion & business' of their ordinary meetings, which this



Nothing appears to indicate that the deceased occupant of  
Hamstead Hill was in



was not; The Admirals of the White, of the Red, & of the  
Blue, were all in good-humour, at the reported success  
of the Timekeeper; & their scientific colleagues, forgoing  
for the time being their wonted predilection for ~~the~~  
the superiority of ~~the~~ ~~method~~ method, & having,  
moreover, lost the <sup>leader</sup> Catena, who, by prescription, rallied  
them to battle against mechanical tactics, shined  
thus in unison with the current of affairs. But, we  
~~may add, with every allowance for the professional ha-~~  
~~bits of one set of the gentlemen assembled, which had~~  
~~familiarized them to the mortality of war; & of the~~  
~~other, after called to recite the last solemn ritual of the~~  
~~church, the indifference shown ~~to~~ towards the memory~~  
~~of the late Astronomer Royal wants some explanation,~~  
~~at least on the part of his learned brethren. As if they~~  
~~so soon noticed, argues that the deceased was not in~~  
~~much esteem, even with those in whose interests he took~~  
~~the lead. This preposterous bawling, as when he told~~  
~~the ~~unlucky~~ younger Harrison that the Timekeeper was not~~  
~~to go to Antigua, because the longitude of that island was~~  
~~known; which was precisely the reason why it was a pro-~~  
~~per place to be fixed on; it is likely would put his~~  
~~friends out of countenance. Though they were too in-~~



their



-different towards their duty to shuck his folly, they  
must have felt disconcerted, & well disposed to requite  
such a Marplot with something equivalent to the sear-  
ment of the vulgar, when they send an offender to Old  
Nick. ~~But leaving it to~~ ~~some civil graduate of~~  
~~devoid to supply either corrections or deficiencies to this~~  
~~curious & unpropitious but unavoidable account of~~  
~~a Professor of Astronomy and Geometry, whose capta-~~  
~~-was name (as Bishop Andrews, or James the 1.<sup>st</sup> would have~~  
~~called it) he may find on his College rolls, if he can~~  
~~find no more of him.~~ If however the Harrison's expect-  
-ed the alteration occasioned by this abstraction of the  
Professor from the Commission of Longitude, by the inex-  
-orable hand of death, could not but ~~will~~ operate to their  
advantage, ~~as~~ as may be inferred from the conclu-  
-sion of the above tract; ~~their~~ their mistaken  
view remarkably illustrates the antique proverb  
- 'to shun Scylla, & run on Charybdis.' seldom in-  
-deed has human foresight more pointedly ter-  
-minated in the admission of the Wise Man's apoph-  
-thym - that 'all is vanity & vexation of spirit.'  
The reader may pause with surprise, as the Author did,



unpardonably affronted (but in self defence only)



on finding that — fresh from the mortifying scene at  
Barbados — from a discomfiture more inflammatory ~~than~~  
than 'the torrid scene', which had

smote on him sore besides, vaulted with fire —  
from an exposure ~~to~~ so galling to a claimant who  
grasped £20,000 as Ixion did his Iuxo, in nubibus,  
& like a clergyman who succeeded to equivalent  
value much later in life, might have taken for  
his motto, 'I have what I have got.' shortly after  
his return from his second voyage, the honours & com-  
-ments of Hamstead Hill having become vacant,  
Neil Masseyne A. B. & F. R. S. succeeded to them  
& to that influence almost insuperable from the of-  
-fice — which constituted him often foreman of the  
jury, & as frequently president of the tribunal ap-  
-pointed to decide on the merits of his rival in  
scientific ambition; by whose son & representative  
there was reason believe he had been ~~unmeasurably~~  
~~affected~~, as has been described.

The Gentlemen selected to compute the observa-  
-ons having delivered in their respective calculations,  
the candidate was very desirous of getting another board  
of Longitude convened, as he thought, for a decisive



-suing January that the Commissioners met, ~~unanimously~~

power, we presume,

the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 1841. He then recites the voyage of the Tartar  
frigate, refers to the testimonies in favour of the correctness  
of the Timekeeper, & in conclusion, prays that they will be  
pleased to grant him such certificate as is directed by the  
aforesaid act.



conclusion; but was unsuccessful in his applica-  
-tion, though I frequently renewed, & while no reason  
appears for the delay. It was not till the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the ex-  
~~amination~~ but were occupied more with matters of  
your than of interest; the consideration of the compu-  
-tations, of which the Astronomer Royal & the Professors  
were to be furnished with copies, in the interim, being  
postponed to the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. These delays, what-  
-ever were the notions of the parties who had it in their  
power to obviate ~~prevent~~ them, would not have been regarded  
with indifference in the common affairs of the world, for  
no person likes to lose three months interest of £20,000 if he  
thinks himself entitled to the principal - as our can-  
-didate, with more knowledge of the mathematics, than of  
mankind, now thought <sup>himself</sup>. He had given in a memorial, ~~and~~  
~~course~~, recapitulating the principal <sup>clauses</sup> ~~in~~ in the act of  
~~the~~. But his prayer was not  
admitted to an impartial Tribunal; & he had no power of  
challenging any jury man on the panel, however notorious-  
-ly actuated by discreditable motives, or even at irreconcil-  
-able enmity with him. That obtrusive & overbearing character,  
James Earl of Morton; now become President of the Royal Society,



in their manager, or vote for his pertinacious resolves, ~~which~~

on their faces, what



& as such taking his seat among them, brought with him  
the same petty ambition to engross all business & originate  
every measure of consequence, as well as the propensity,  
equally ludicrous & mischievous, to ~~conclude~~ infer that the  
sentiments of his colleagues must unavoidably coincide with  
his own, without first taking the trouble to ascertain the  
correctness of his assumption. He had been defeated ~~failed~~  
about two years before, ~~in an attempt~~ as has been seen, <sup>in an attempt</sup>  
to force his own impracticable, & even fantastical resolutions,  
on the Candidate; for so are expensive plans without money  
by common consent; & ~~it~~ it would be paying the other gentle-  
men, of that separate commission, a bad compliment to sup-  
pose they could sanction such an ~~unworthy~~ <sup>anomalous & objectionable</sup> ~~administration~~  
though they had not the resolution to restrain him with a  
strong arm. All of them were ~~assumed~~ presumed to be well  
informed on the subject they were convened for, but had  
no pecuniary interest in it, ~~excepting~~ excepting M. Mudge.  
If notwithstanding, their Secretary & J. A. T. was suffered  
to mount his hobby & crack his whip ~~among them~~ <sup>what</sup>  
was not to be apprehended at a Board so differently  
constituted, as was that of the Longitude? where one part  
of the constituents were non-afficient, & the other division  
manifested an interest in the question so inimical to that



(except his avowed ~~own~~ competition) in cy

whose counterpart, whoever ~~the~~ he was, the

Bard of Lwz must have



of the Claimant. — With the Earl of Morlon might have  
been clapped, as equally if not more pointedly Disquali-  
-ed, the rev. Rev. Maskelyne B. D. F. R. S. & Astronomer  
Royal; who now took his seat for the first time among  
the Commissioners at that meeting, the proceedings of  
which were so important in their result. And two  
men more unfit for the Functions they assumed, could  
not have been found in these Dominions; for so the  
twelve Judges of England would have unanimously  
opined them. Dr. Maskelyne (as we chuse to style him  
by anticipation) had however the negative merit of  
not being guilty at this period of any overt act in ag-  
-gravation of his official right to attend. It was far  
otherwise with the ~~unconscionable~~ <sup>consequent</sup> character adverted to,  
~~whose counterpart our Divine Bard must have~~  
had in his expressive eye when he gave us that  
forcible idea. —

Mark's but a walking shadow, a poor Player  
That struts & frets his hour upon the stage,  
And then is heard no more.

But the part his Lordship performed was of a ~~quite different~~  
~~quite different~~ disengenuous cast, much better suited to the plebeian  
costume, than his hereditary decorations. It has been



which was put a stop to by Lord Sandwich deciding that the  
candidate should have another trial without delay:

~~was~~ significant #



show how singularly opinionated & "positively wrong"  
he played off at the communion in <sup>1763</sup> his ~~unfeasible~~ per-  
-tenacity was such ~~at~~ at their last meeting that he con-  
-tended if the Candidate did not conform to the reso-  
-lutions he had drawn up [before their first assembly] he  
could not be entitled to a new trial of the water. In  
which Lord Sandwich interrupted him, to say (in substance)  
that there was not the least connexion between the busi-  
-ness of the ~~Assembly~~ Gentlemen who were met & another very  
-eye for the Timeskeeper, which, as it was impossible  
for the Incumbent to concur in his Lordships plan, he  
should have immediately. This unexpected turn revived  
that compromise from "a local habitation & a name"  
to say nothing" leaving their manager & fac totum to  
shew the end over his departed consequence — to strut  
& fret a little in conformity with the ~~expression~~  
expression he dropped at the time "If that is the case  
"I am sure Harrison will get all the money."

It is not uncommon for the tangible motives of  
public men to be disclosed by fortuitous circumstances,  
as in the present instance, long after they have become  
wholly insensible to praise, or blame. The plausible &  
grave reasons put forth in official minutes, & reports of



& as Dogberry will



proceedings, than appear awkward enough to those, who being  
enabled to step behind the curtain, are soon led to observe  
the springs, <sup>the</sup> wires & patent levers that show the move-  
ments all fair above board. Lord Morton desired to be  
thought to excel in <sup>horological</sup> chronometrical mechanics, perhaps with  
as much reason as Sir Robert Walpole did in a polite &  
happy turn for gallantry; ~~but saying that, Dogberry~~ who  
observes that, "when two men would ride the same horse,  
"one of them must ride behind." His Lordship has left  
it to be inferred, ~~that~~ he had some repugnance to bestriding  
the crupper; & betrayed an impatience at the success of  
the genius next the pommel, somewhat similar to the jea-  
lousy of Cardinal Richieu for the great Cornielle. But  
it is not recorded that the poet suffered either in his re-  
putation, or his receipts, by the criticism which his Emin-  
ence ordered to be written on the Cid; it was far other-  
wise with our unfortunate Chalmers, when his destiny  
delivered him bound hand & foot to his aristocratical op-  
ponent, whose discoveries (not yet discovered) were not  
likely to disquiet him much, but whose illiberal & op-  
-pressive spirit he had sufficient reason to dread, when  
they were brought into contact on such unequal terms.



10 From No 92 Note at  $\Delta$  The Author has not the Pamph-  
-let; but was favoured with the title, as follows.

The British Mariner's Guide. contain-  
-ing complete & easy instructions for the Discovery  
of the Longitude at Sea & Land, within a Degree, by  
observations of the Distance of the Moon from the  
Sun & Stars, taken with Hadley's quadrant. ~~with an~~  
~~appendix~~ — To which are added an Appendix, contain-  
-ing a variety of interesting rules & directions, tend-  
-ing to the improvement of practical Navigation  
in general. — By Nevil Maskelyne, A. M. Fellow  
of Trinity College, Cambridge, & of the Royal Society.  
— London printed for the Author; sold by &c. 1763

To call those instructions easy, as in Theory  
they might be, but which practically failed him,  
soon afterwards he would have verified them in  
direct opposition to the Timekeeper runs at best an  
untoward misnomer; besides, as ~~the~~ the ~~learned~~ learned  
Astronomer could not  $\square$  which

(or more correctly, we might say  $\frac{1}{2}$  by order of Lord Morton) &



from <sup>□</sup> ignorant that the Watch, under the disadvantage  
of the tempestuous passage in the Merlin, ~~had kept~~  
~~the Longitude within little more than a fourth part of~~  
~~what the Seaman is promised here, & when he would~~  
himself have been as much at a loss as the mariners of  
the ship that bore Saint Paul, "when neither sun, nor  
stars appeared in many days" / had kept the Longitude  
within little more than a fourth part of what the Seaman  
is promised here, there is something so deep rooted in  
~~human nature~~ such rivalry, under present circumstances,  
as justifies the suspicion, if it does not offer direct <sup>conclusive</sup>  
proof, that he was edged on in his enterprise, if not  
sorely employed by the party who manifested so  
little goodwill towards the success of the mechanics.

Chap. ~~7~~ <sup>16</sup> 7.

It was thought proper before proceeding further  
with the drama of two acts (acts of Parliament we mean) in  
the President of the Loyal Society is so conspicuous on the  
boards, to transfer from the minutes of the meeting Febru-  
ary 9<sup>th</sup> 1765, memorable as it proved to John Harrison, the  
following statement; premising that, <sup>in the</sup> copy the Claimant  
& his Son were furnished with, by order of the Board, ~~which~~  
which is given in their journal, ~~does not mention~~



The passage in which the manager of the separate  
 though the omission had no way the appearance of  
~~being accidental~~ commission (& of ~~this~~ ~~case~~ the present  
 commission) comes forward, is wholly omitted. An omis-  
 sion which, for reasons suggested by his conduct, it  
 becomes difficult to ~~defend~~ <sup>excuse</sup> from malicious motives.

Note at O P 137 The abilities & consistency of this Gen-  
 -tlemen seem to have prevented the Cardate, & his  
 for, from regarding him so cheaply as <sup>they would</sup> his colleagues, from  
 Can & Isis, who appeared to them deficient in prac-  
 tical astronomy. — If the Commissioners divided on any  
 motion at a Board, the affair being always carried on  
 with closed doors, there is no knowing who the minor-  
 -ity were.

Note at Δ P 138 Their resentment should have been di-  
 -rected to their colleague, Lord Barrington, who had just  
 before objected to more than five people being concerned.

Note at □ P 139 This strong language, which he would not  
 have used under other circumstances, was drawn from him  
 by the observation that Lord Morton could direct the opin-  
 -ions of the majority at the Board as he pleased; but the prin-



~~Lord Morton, leaving it to be inferred from analogy  
that when afterwards the proceedings were published  
it was deemed advisable to account in this way for  
contravening so essentially the general persuasion that the  
reward would be paid before~~

~~your waring moon resumed her horn.~~

" M. Harrison's memorial which was laid  
" before the last Board was again read. And the Earl of  
" Morton read, & explained to the Board, the proceedings  
" of himself & the other commissioners appointed by an  
" act of the 3.<sup>rd</sup> of his present Majesty to receive the  
" ~~Discovery~~ which M. Harrison had proposed to make of  
" of the principles of his Timekeeper previous to his  
" sons last voyage to the West Indies.

" The Board having duly weighed & considered the  
" same, & having also taken into consideration the dif-  
" ~~ference~~ -ference of Longitude between Portsmouth in Great  
" Britain & Bridge Town in the Island of Barbadoes, result-  
" -ing from a mean of corresponding astronomical obser-  
" -vations made at both places agreeable to the resolutions  
" of this Board, of the 4.<sup>th</sup> & 5.<sup>th</sup> of August 1763, & to the in-  
" -structions given in consequence thereof. And having  
" compared the said difference of Longitude between the  
" said places given by M. John Harrison's Timekeeper, are  
" unanimously of opinion, that the said Timekeeper has  
" kept its time with sufficient correctness & without losing  
" its Longitude in the voyage from Portsmouth to Barbadoes  
" beyond the nearest limit required by the act of the 12 of Queen



108 - Since of it, & especially of the subsequent ~~and~~  
~~and~~ sentence, may well be questioned, if  
the Professors took the expression "men of theory" to them-  
selves, as it is likely they would. John Harrison was in-  
-deed, a straight forward man, who resorted not to the ~~the~~  
course Lord Chesterfield's duct or - that if you address your-  
-self to the passions of those you would influence, you  
gain your cause - but, if to their reason, you gain no-  
-thing

Had Lord Morton intitled the proceedings  
~~those~~ his own only, that he read & explained to the  
Board, he would have been correct; but to call them,  
in an enlarged sense, those of the dissolved Commission,  
was insufferable. It has been distinctly shown he  
could not have had a majority at the first, or the  
second meeting, & the third was inconclusive. Even  
supposing otherwise, yet by having omitted ~~to~~ a sum-  
-mons to the rev. John Mitchell for the second meeting, he  
had vitiated, <sup>& rendered</sup> the proceedings <sup>null</sup>; - as nothing appears, or  
the minutes to ~~has~~ indicate that the transactions of that  
Commission were called for, either collectively, <sup>or individually</sup> by the Board  
of Longitude, common fairness required that he should  
send notice to the accused of the step he meditated; as it was,



" Anne, but even considerably within the same. But in re-  
" -gard that the said M<sup>r</sup>. John Harrison hath not yet  
" made a discovery of the principles upon which the said  
" Timekeeper is constructed, nor of the method of carrying  
" ~~those~~ those principles into execution; by means whereof  
" other such Timekeepers might be ~~constructed~~ framed of suffi-  
" -cient correctness to find the longitude at sea within the  
" limits by the said act required, whereby the said inven-  
" -tion might be judged practicable & useful in terms of  
" the said act, & agreeable to the true intent & meaning  
" thereof. They do not therefore think themselves author-  
" -ized to grant any certificate to the said M<sup>r</sup>. John Harrison  
" until he shall have made a full & clear discovery  
" of the said principles & method &c

~~Admitting the said Earl was justified in referring~~  
~~to what he called the proceedings of the commission in~~  
~~1763 though it does not appear that they were called~~  
~~for either by the sense of the Board collectively, or by~~  
~~any individual request what<sup>ever</sup> prevented him from reading~~  
~~those proceedings~~  
~~then~~ <sup>in</sup> his place, when he first took his seat as a commis-  
-sioner of Longitude, September 8<sup>th</sup>. 1764, which would seem  
to have been the regular course; or at the following Board,  
January 19<sup>th</sup>. if his purpose was ~~fair~~ <sup>carded</sup> & open? We cannot, for  
the honour of the privileged order to which he belonged, say  
it could be so construed — it being impossible for the  
Candidate to ward off the blow, when struck at in the  
dark in this manner, with Phyllock's knife, which seemed



106  
to be infered the Commissioners might be much preju-  
-diced against the Claimant, by its being represented that  
he had refused to conform to the resolutions then read; —  
& so it proved; for none present had the sagacity to ask  
the noble Lord his Lordship, how the workmen were to be paid  
that he had required should be set on 2 Supposing this point  
is waived, what

near forty

-ment. It could <sup>have been</sup> not be made plainer than if, among  
his rustic compereers, he had seen his neighbours son ten-  
dered half a crown, to go to, & return from, the market



to have been borrowed for the purpose. Indeed, a disappointment so great, may be likened to the "pound of flesh" which that notorious Hebrew was prepared to cut out of from the side of his intended victim. But there was no Portia to interfere in this adverse hour; though it is not easy to say how many women, without discarding their petticoats, would have ~~still~~ displayed more judgment, certainly more humanity than a commission wholly composed of the masculine sex.

A retrospective view, which carries us ~~many~~ years back, viz. to 17~~th~~, when our Adventurer first came to London, with his plans for the discovery of the Longitude, shows that from the confined precincts of his village of Barrow to the spacious area of the metropolis, each person that spoke as if he knew the subject, never failed to advert to the cause in the act, which prescribed a successful voyage to the West Indies as the touchstone, the test, or talisman, that would insure him an order on the Treasurer of the Navy equivalent to 10, 15, or £20,000 according to the standard of his attainments. — All the world knew that the discovery, if by him accomplished, would be by means of clock, or watch-work; & consequently the question whether more such



down within a given time.

~~at this~~

~~Drutis~~

confirming him in  
in this mistake ~~without exception, it was the Commissioners~~  
it was certainly, without exception, the Commissioners of  
Longitude

(in the opinion of George 3.)

never  
in explaining the ~~insertion of~~



clocks, or watches, could be made, & of equal goodness  
with the original, was as open to discussion & enquiry  
from the first, as it could be on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February  
1765 ~~present date~~. So that John Harrison, like the  
patriot of old, seemed to have been attended by his  
evil genius, who, <sup>so long</sup> for a period ~~equal to the life of~~ ~~himself~~  
~~never~~ never suffered a whisper ~~to be~~ audible  
enough to warn him of the ignis fatuus he was pursuing.  
To heighten the deception, if any particular description  
of persons could be said to be more forward ~~in~~ ~~the~~  
~~than~~ than the generality of those he saw, ~~in~~ ~~the~~  
~~of~~ of Longitude themselves; of which the famous  
tautological assurance of Lord Sandwich was a notable  
specimen & — it may now be enquired, what resulted from  
an obligation as binding, to every moral intent & purpose,  
as if the parties had sworn thereto on the holy Evangelists,  
at the altar. That Nobleman, by a change in the Cabinet,  
was not a Commissioner at this time, but no less than  
~~eight~~ of those who, by their President & interlocutor, had concurred  
~~the~~ the proposed addition to the instructions as uttered  
by superfluous, & ~~a~~ <sup>an idle</sup> waste of paper & ink; for the in-  
structions themselves implied the very same thing; sat at the  
present Board; & their names, were it not from considera-



111  
that Noquest statesman who lamented that "the eye  
of Shivabry was gone"

pay the claimant

him,



-tions for their unoffending posterity & representatives,  
would be given here. No man stands excused for under-  
-valuing in about two years, nor even to his latest breath  
an affair essentially connected with his honour. So  
Bayard would have told them: & so would M<sup>r</sup> Slaves. He  
~~who with the strongest passion on earth for money, yet~~  
~~retained a delicacy from the court of George 2<sup>d</sup>~~  
~~that effectually precluded him~~ "from asking a  
" featherless for it." — Whatever their <sup>severe</sup> ~~right~~ commis-  
-sioners thought of Lord Morton's resolutions, explanations, &  
it requires no voucher to add, his instructions thereto ap-  
-proved; it is plain they had no alternative but either to  
pay the reward as promptly as Sir Robert Walpole  
did his pamphlet writer Arncliffe, or to compensate the  
claimant without delay, out of their own pockets. Nei-  
-ther were the rest of the Board very differently situated;  
for as the commission of Longitude resembled a corporati-  
-on aggregate, which never dies, it followed, that the changes  
which took place from time <sup>to time</sup> among their number, no ways  
released them from being consistent with the conduct of their  
predecessors; which was impossible if they ~~anyway~~ thus devi-  
-ated by their vote from the reiterated assurances he had  
received from most of them, in ~~an~~ individual capacity, for a



~~minutes~~ minutes ~~directly~~ show

Lord Sandwich's  
total indifference to a pledge, which the sugar craftsmen  
(foreseeing the <sup>annihilation</sup> ~~defeat~~ of their plans) took care to <sup>keep</sup> ~~hide~~  
out of sight.  
~~from the minutes~~, yet it threatened to cost <sup>our mechanic</sup> him the butte  
bulk of his recompense for so many years' toil. — But however  
~~the conduct~~ cheap the conduct of the <sup>University</sup> ~~same~~ party shows  
them, it was oppressive on a lesser scale, when compared with  
the all absorbing consequence of James Douglas Earl of Morton  
& President of the Royal Society; who



period almost equal to half the life of man. These the  
doubts & diffinities that were now started, founded on  
the gross misstatements of the Earl of Morton, ~~as their~~  
~~misstatements~~ were irrelevant, simply because the time was  
long past ~~in~~ in which they could ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~recently~~ <sup>recently</sup> ~~be~~  
entertained. If it cost them nothing but this compromise  
their honour (which seems to have weighed but as the  
dust of the balance") to change an opinion of thirty  
years date they should have remembered it was widely dif-  
ferent with our Adventurer whom it called on in his belief  
to forgo his claim to the reward moiety of the reward:  
for he tells us "he considered it as irretrievably lost  
from these forward." He judged that however he might  
excuse himself, pretence would not be waiting to postpone  
the final payment vis à vis. He saw that the President  
of the Royal Society, who affected to rival him in his  
discoveries, & whom meanwhile he had experienced when he  
engaged him to set on 20 or 30 workmen, yet without offer-  
ing to assist him with a guinea to pay them, had now ~~entirely~~  
taken to himself the whole management of the board  
of Longitude, as he had before done that of the separate  
commission, with, or without leave, is not visible, & neither  
yet necessary to enquire, For his appearance ~~at the~~



113  
for reasons, which need not be repeated, ~~and~~ <sup>he</sup> brought  
with him a serious cause of umbrage, in his estimation;  
his former defeat, to wit. And who does not

after the <sup>Earl of Mornington</sup> President of the Royal Society had explained,  
"The we read that" The  
paid any regard to their duty, in a case on which upwards  
of £17,000 depended, they would have enquired into the  
truth of the ~~allegation~~ <sup>allegation</sup> against a person, that the Can-  
didate had refused to explain the principles of his in-  
tervention to the Gentlemen of the separate Commission  
those appointed to ~~those appointed~~ to receive them under  
the Act, the 3.<sup>d</sup> George 3.<sup>d</sup> Inquiry might & ought to have  
been made of <sup>some of</sup> the Gentlemen; or the Candidate could have  
been examined, or, if preferable, confronted with his accuser. <sup>to Δ 153</sup>  
~~For~~ The Commissioners of Longitude should have remembered  
there was not one of their number but would have de-  
manded this ~~unjust~~ equitable concession, had it been  
his own case. With Argymen present, they were sonning  
against the spiritual injunction, to "do unto others as  
they would be done by." — In the result of this gross in-  
tervention, the Claimant, figuratively speaking, was deli-  
vered <sup>in chains</sup> ~~in chains~~ to his <sup>merciless</sup> ~~merciless~~ opponent.



(should we not say his effrontery) was seldom equalled  
~~never exceeded~~ The explanation, it is obvious, would  
impute contumacy to the inventor of the Timeskeeper,  
is not conforming to his resolutions & who does not com-  
miserate the unhappy candidate when we read, "The  
Board having duly weighed & considered the same." For  
~~it was no such thing~~ <sup>they did</sup> Had they duly weighed what they  
were about engaged in would not the impropriety of go-  
ing into evidence on which the refusal of £20,000 depen-  
ded without getting the accused party or his defence have  
occurred to the disinterested part of the meeting? A  
single question, not regarding the method but the means  
of his Lordship's plan, would have toppled down the good  
by castle in which this experimentalist was fortified on  
a principle, "which all the mechanics in London would be  
wrong, if they attempted to find out."

The common prejudice against a man's telling  
his story his own way could not possibly be better confirm-  
ed than by the minutes of Lord Morton's manoeuvres at  
this Board on this occasion, for what else see they? ~~When~~  
~~when~~ the pretended resolutions are compared with the ex-  
planations, so called, on which the commissioners without  
any questioning, their validity proceeded to form their



to be dealt with according ~~to~~. It was scarcely to be expected otherwise from the Lunar party, whose object this nobleman, as different in penetratory the views of others, as he was in concealing his own, had no suspicion he was promoting exactly as they could desire. They had lost Professor Blipse, & their favourite candidate, <sup>Neville Muskeby, A. M.</sup> immeasurably <sup>had.</sup> sanguine as he was, having nothing conclusive to show; when moreover the success of the Timekeeper was admitted by all, were they to acquiesce in the sentiment, "Othello's occupation's gone," or what was to be the plan of the campaign? From this difficulty they were most opportunely released by the unprincipled folly & effrontery of this anomalous character; who at once relieved them from the odium of desiring to defeat the payment of the reward by some expedient, like that before so hermetically sealed. They had only to applaud so consummate a genius as his Lordship, & while he was venting his spleen against John Harrison, he was sure to adopt such measures as their interest called for. Had he had a glimpse that way, it was much to be doubted that he would have been at all favourable to the Lunar wit's "carrying off" all the money. This philosopher by experiment, ~~and~~



judgment, & methodically to pass sentence on the Delinquents  
thus arrived without being placed at the bar. — By  
way of adding a little reasoning to the mouthful that  
may be becoming fatiguing to chew, we should observe  
that this Philosophical Dandy, as we <sup>perhaps</sup> fear he would be  
thought now ~~the~~ seems to have been as deficient in per-  
fecting the views of his contemporaries, as he was in  
separating his own from future enquiry, had no suspicion  
that he was playing the cards of his neighbours while  
he shuffled his own so triumphantly. — After the return  
from the successful voyage to Linnæa (for such it was ad-  
mitted to have been in Parliament) the resistive party  
at the Board, whose prospects this mechanical skill threat-  
ened to annihilate & who seem to have deflected the manage-  
ment of their concerns, to Professor ~~the~~ Nathaniel Bliss R. M.  
Astronomer Royal having without any regard to decency  
referred the sole appointment of the computers to their  
brother graduate, & against all equity refused the candidate  
any share on his part, it happened that by some contri-  
vance never explained, the calculations of two of the gen-  
tlemen employed, entire strangers to John Harrison were  
shaky inconclusive either one way or the other, & the third  
computer, also a stranger, decided entirely in his favour. On



115 <sup>rather</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>than</sup>  
as we should say, ~~that~~ experimental philosopher,  
certainly assimilated himself too much with the  
Dog in the manger; for he never brought forward his  
own plan, or principle, whatever it was, "which  
" would surprise all the workmen in London," & yet  
he did not relish other people being likely to bear  
away the prize. — We may here ~~be allowed to observe here~~  
— that to those who think with the Poet "the proper study  
" of mankind is man" & ~~moreover~~ <sup>further a step</sup> who ~~conceive~~ that  
he is "the jest & riddle of the world" there is scope  
enough for reflection; when a scientific council,  
<sup>promoted by</sup> ~~from~~ the Royal Society ~~had promoted~~ to the chair  
in which Newton had sat, is enabled through the  
indolence of one part ~~of one part~~ of the Commis-  
sioners of Longitude, & the culpability of another, to  
sport at pleasure with — to cripple & paralyze the ex-  
-ortions of a man of acknowledged genius; one of those  
homines ceterarii who do honour to their age & country.  
<sup>On whose</sup> ~~His~~ labours had a direct reference to the safety of thou-  
-sands of lives, & millions of property: The question had  
~~engaged the attention of~~ for centuries engaged the atten-  
-tion of mathematicians, & simultaneously interested the  
whole civilized world.



These grounds, which cannot be viewed without a suspicion  
of surreptitious & underhand dealings on the part of the  
Treasury Board, they voted the Chairman only <sup>one</sup> eighth  
part of the reward he had fairly earned, & even £1,500 of  
this was dependent on a contingency which the hazards of the  
sea might frustrate. — When the success of the Timeskeeper  
in the second voyage was known, & their favourite candidate  
Nevil Mackenzie R. B. resigned as he was, had nothing  
conclusive to produce. When moreover they had lost their  
Commander in Chief, were they to abandon further operations  
— or what was to be the plan of the campaign? From  
these cogitations they were most superficially relieved by the  
active, but superficial & ostentatious ruler ~~and~~ above all  
rule, as we may call this unfavourable sample of the Nor-  
thern peerage, whom they met to stare at or only to repeat  
like the return of Ixar the voluptuary in Gadiis —

Words are unable to set forth your praise.

What mighty honours are your due.

The sentiment would not have been deficient in pith or pa-  
thos, if it be considered that the <sup>spirit</sup> of this noble  
man rescued them from the odium of having any partic-  
ular wish to press hard on the mechanics at this juncture,  
while, wrapt up in self consequence, ~~they~~ he thought or meant



116 continuation of Note from page 41 "heaven shakes  
"by the breaking of the waves against her quarter, that  
"the Tomkeeper received almost as violent blows as if it  
"had been thrown in its box from one side of the cabin  
"to the other. — From being so much shaken, the ship, which  
"was aged, would spurt water through every joint in  
"her; & in order to keep it out of the box with the water  
"William Harrison had no other method than to envelope  
"it in a blanket; & when this had imbibed so much water  
"that he could wring it out, he took it off & applied ano-  
"ther: having sometimes no <sup>way</sup> method to dry the blankets  
"again, but to cover himself up in them when he went  
"to sleep. This together with the sea sickness threw him into  
"a severe fit of Mads, & it was with the greatest difficulty  
"his life was saved; but he very well knew that, if he  
"could not keep the water out of the box, some would  
"be so cruel as to say he let it in on purpose, because  
"he knew the Invention would not answer; & others also  
"would allege it was a thing of too delicate construction  
"to be sent to sea. They would not consider the hardships  
"of the voyage, nor the great misfortune of not having a proper  
"place prepared for the Tomkeeper, as he was sent home  
"in a ship which with the greatest difficulty the crew  
"were able to keep above water in the mountainous seas  
"They buffeted so long a time. Thus — after one of the rough-  
"est that any ship ever had, the Merlin arrived on the 26.  
"of March at Lethend: & William Harri-



thing. Yet it may well be doubted, had he suspected then, that he would have been more favourable to the measure carrying off "all the money" than he was to John Harrison's demonstrations to the same effect. This Lordship certainly assimilated himself too much with the selfish crew in the matter; for he never brought forward his own plan or principle, whatever it was, & yet he did not relish other people being likely to carry off the opima spolia "bear away the bells".

Having referred to the proceedings consequent of the first voyage, a very important moment should not be lost sight of. Which is that no trace, token, hint, or surmise whatever is discovered indicating that the course contemplated then would have been in the least <sup>at all</sup> analogous to ~~that~~ that now adopted. Had the Journals been declared at that ~~moment~~ to have fully coincided within the nearest limits prescribed by the act of Parliament so often referred to & appealed to. This discrepancy the minutes of the Board of Longitude, of the present date, very undesignedly but clearly show, by reference to the papers of the separate commissioners, was owing to the gross mistakes of the Earl of Morton. The ignorant or



117 "10<sup>th</sup>, next morning, went on shore with the Timeskeeper;  
"but from cloudy weather, an observation of equal altitude  
"could not be got till the 2<sup>d</sup> of April; the day after  
"which, he set off for London.

The above quotation, with some verbal corrections  
to avoid Tautology & deficiencies in grammar, is from  
the Manuscript Journal often referred to; into which the  
particulars had been compressed from that kept on board by  
William Harrison, which cannot now be found, but which  
the Author remembers seeing, & retains in recollection  
some passages of, without the dates. The following incident  
probably occurred during the three weeks of moderate weather.  
—"Spoke a ship called the Pierpoint, & sent our boat on  
"board."—The visit was of material service to this vessel,  
for correcting her Longitude, but for the reason just mention-  
ed, the difference between her log & the Timeskeeper cannot  
be circumstantially given.—"M<sup>r</sup>. Robison & I applied our-  
"selves to stop a dangerous leak, which could not easily be  
"come at."—A sea broke into my cabin, but I hope no harm  
"to the Timeskeeper. — We were chased by a very large  
"ship; & being brought to, about noon, she proved to be  
"the Essex, Captain Tomberg." Being a new vessel, on  
her first cruise, & none on <sup>the Mexican</sup> board, having seen her, they  
concluded she must be an enemy, as we were then at war  
with France & Spain, & crowded all their canvas to escape;  
but finding this unavailing, & it being a point of honour <sup>to Yagüel</sup>



The malicious imputation ~~on~~ against the  
Card that he had refused to disclose the principles  
& construction of the <sup>Bill</sup> Timekeeper in conformity with  
the act of Parliament ~~of~~ of the 3<sup>rd</sup> George 3<sup>rd</sup>. There  
there is unquestionable evidence he had fully offered to  
explain, according to the obvious import of that bill  
& the intention in passing it. But there was no  
contending with so opinionated a manager, as the 5<sup>th</sup>  
& 6<sup>th</sup> of his Lordships resolution show. Who not in-  
heriting the dignity & forbearance which were to be  
looked for from his rank & family, though he appear-  
ed sufficiently imbued with the spirit inculcated  
by the motto of his country (offered as it is to the  
pupils of Christianity) was now, when he had the  
gift to himself, ungenerous enough not only not to  
forget his former ~~of~~ defeat, but to take an uncon-  
scionable revenge by standing in the way between the  
Claimant & the reward, thereby teaching him the im-  
portance of the scientific Leviathan into whose jaws  
he had pretended to put a hook. And (from sheer ne-  
glect) overlooked the hint the thistle conveys, that "now  
shall provoke me."



The biographers of John Harrison knowing nothing  
 of Lord Morton, ~~or his~~ & his gross misstatements, nor of ~~any~~  
 the subservience of the Commissioners to his personal resort-  
 ment, & even his rivalry, have handed to one another the  
 notion, as if it admitted the doubt, that "the delay in pay-  
 ing to him the full reward, originated in the anxiety of the  
 Commissioners to do justice to the public, at the same time  
 that they encouraged merit in an individual." — Nor would  
 Lord Chesterfield have ~~smiled~~ glanced ~~at~~ significantly at the  
 difference between so reasonable a supposition, & the ugly  
 facts laid open, above. It is seldom that the ~~essential~~ ~~most~~  
 truth, ~~has been more at~~ as regards public men, has been  
 more at variance with what floated on ~~from the surface~~  
 the surface of the affair, than what time & casualties have  
 disclosed here. We had occasion to remark on the meanness of this  
noblesman, in advising the Candidate to borrow what he could of  
 his friends, in order to meet his own chimerical interpretation  
 of the 3<sup>d</sup> George 3<sup>d</sup>. but without offering the least assistance  
 towards that object. Yet though deficient in one quality,  
 which, so situated, his rival had a right to look for from him,  
 he appeared sufficiently embued with another, summed in the



From the preceding pages it ~~may be observed~~ that the public  
we know the principal source of the troubles the common  
genius introduced had to make his way through by patience  
& perseverance if he would. That a character who should be  
assigned his place & class with Samuel Pepys the noted Sec-  
retary of the Admiralty in the reign of Charles 2.<sup>d</sup> like him  
President of the Royal Society, though his philosophi-  
cal attainments seem to have been ~~more~~ more dubious  
than other pretensions, or pretents which we have desired  
~~the merit of whatever was said or done at pub-~~  
lic meetings sufficiently limited in their number to afford  
that scope for display which may be regarded as the bread-  
basket of a vain man of quality. ~~It is not~~











120 marines with their pieces presented, waiting for the word of command, but which, from the colours being shown on both sides, ~~was~~ issued with "recover arms." — Every person, whether belonging to the ship or not, having his post assigned him on such occasions, William Harrison was made magazine keeper, which was creditable to his report among his messmates, as they always place some one noted for caution & firmness in a situation so exposed to fatal accidents.

~~nor for~~  
Minor Note from Page 119  $\Delta$  A precarious chance, however. In the battle of Camperdown, a brig, armed with eighteen pounders, took her station under the stern of the Monarch, but the heavy stern <sup>metal</sup> guns of that ship sent her to the bottom at the second discharge.

from  $\square$  573 new parag.<sup>4</sup> The following account from a traveller in the Netherlands, in 1815, may be allowed to fall in appropriately with the subject of this note to X

from  $\oplus$  121 That the declaration of the Earl of Sandwich was not entered on the minutes (~~because of its inaccuracy~~ because that had been maliciously prevented) will never do, while it was audible to all present, without a dissent being intimated unless it was by very faces. They made themselves irresponsible in a worldly sense, but only till in the awful language they are wont to quote "the truth



~~to the character of a featherman, as the Spiritualists, would have made it, nor further be disposed of either a factory in one mode, nor another. Had it been inserted in the minutes, which William Harrison proposed to effect, but which the Lower party contrived to prevent for it might have been clapping an extinguisher on their further expectations,) there would have been no scope for the messengers' display, ~~the~~ the reproach of their breach, <sup>of faith</sup> for which the parties concerned have become irreparable till "The Trumpet" shall sound, & the dead shall be raised."~~

from X A Flemish female peasant, of that part of the country contiguous to the memorable field of Waterloo, having become possessed of a pair of beautifully mounted pistols, part of the spoils of some French marshal, was offered eight guineas for her prize, by a party of English Travellers. Which was refused ~~and~~ because she believed they would not <sup>pass</sup> current at Brussels; but being assured to the contrary, <sup>she</sup> took them after a little hesitation saying "The English never deceive." — A reason which equally excited the surprise & satisfaction of our countrymen. If such is the high ~~and~~ character we support in Belgium; thus,



121 " - yet shall sound, & the dead shall be raised. "

those seven

Lord Sandwich's ~~apocryphal~~ celebrated assurance,  
(to avoid tautology)  
which, ~~though~~ although not subjected to the form of an oath,  
was plainly as binding on any person having pretensions to  
the character of a gentleman, as the spiritual court would  
have made it, ~~become, in its result, directly opposed to the~~  
~~preceding sentiment~~ But where was the gentleman who  
~~for dislike~~ <sup>usage</sup> of repetitions <sup>undoubtedly</sup> led himself & company into  
an engagement, for which they have all become irre-  
sponsible till "the trumpet shall sound, & the dead shall  
be raised." The Earl of Sandwich, a knight of the garter,  
which supposes he would defend to extremity his word, <sup>of honour</sup>  
as a Pope's Bishop would his bone, ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> not now a Commissioner; but to artifice  
-pate his indignation, on being informed of what was going  
on forward, would be wholly <sup>a mistake</sup> erroneous. He did not deny



ramified till it reached those in the humblest station,  
how came it that John Harrison should have had so much  
reason to complain, in the heart of England itself, of the in-  
-sincerity, or of the indifference to their pledge, given under  
the circumstances described, which he now experienced from  
~~the~~ Commissioners, some of whom ranked high in the  
naval service, while others were of the sacred profession,  
which especially calls on them in every case to enlighten  
the laity by their example? <sup>to p 120</sup> ~~Was it that not the evil,~~  
~~but the good spirits were exercised here? & what was the~~  
~~talismen or magnet - the secret that yawning hordes~~  
~~could throw up, by which a cheap character, such as Lord~~  
~~Morton might be thought, could since his colleagues so of~~  
~~frequently in Lethe, or gorge them with lotus, that to dis-~~  
~~charge the stain thus acquired would be as fruitless as to~~  
~~work the Marksmen's shot.~~

~~But what became of Lord Sandwich, it~~  
~~will be enquired? He was not indeed a Commissioner~~  
~~at this time, but what then? Would he not have~~  
~~felt disposed to wish for the double-headed shot of~~  
~~Orbuss the Indian wherewith to knock them~~  
~~down like rampiers, or have sent his orderly~~  
~~bootswain among such a crew, with a forcible argu~~



<sup>122</sup>  
the pledge he had given, for that he could not; yet he was not pleased to be reminded of it; & with a caprice equally unaccountable, & unfortunate for the Claimant, from being friendly towards his efforts, he became

Note Page 22 at O That the amount of this bill, no particulars being given, should appear on the minutes, where it is the only expense of the same description thus recorded, has something very remarkable in it. — It has been observed, page that Dr. Mashelone was engaged in a private voyage to St. Helena to verify the Longitude by the Moon secundum artem; but there are no grounds to suppose him equal at all points to the costs of such an enterprise, not at least to those of the capital instruments he would desire to take ~~with~~ out with him for his purposes (of which purposes are, hereafter.) This entry ~~of the~~ of Mr. Bird's bill therefore, which seems to have found its way by accident on the minutes (~~from~~ from the parties concerned not being so wise in their generation as the Disciples of Ignatius Loyola) throws a suspicion on the appropriation of some of the apparatus included in the aforesaid bill, but which as no direct, or what might be termed legal evidence attaches, ~~to~~ in the present case, to the secrets of the scientific cabal, we will leave to the consideration of those who may think the affair singular enough.



greatest divided into nine heads (or tails) to wit,  
on being assured that his veritable assurance &  
certification against tautologous "redundancies"  
was not mentioned, unless at Coventry. The supposition,  
though <sup>highly</sup> probable, however, is not borne out  
by the fact. One of all the unaccountable items con-  
nected with the adventures of John Harrison, as the  
novelist would call them, there is none more inexplic-  
able than that the Earl of Sandwich, a knight of  
the garter (synonymous with the sort of honour per-  
sented) & whose share betide the P. B. I. was not  
worthy to suppose, should yet have become subservient  
to the petty rivalry, & petty revenge of the Earl of  
Morton, though he had himself declared, when pre-  
sent at the last meeting under the 3<sup>rd</sup> of George 3<sup>rd</sup>. "He  
plainly saw, it was impossible for Mr Harrison to  
conform to the resolutions, that were shown." That  
is to those which ~~was~~ it is seen were the basis of the  
resolution the Board was come to. To it was, this noble  
man did not attempt to deny the pledge he had  
given, but was not pleased to be reminded of it,  
& with a uprice not very uncommon among ~~the~~  
men of high rank (the spoiled children of fortune)



old man; who, backed by the confidence such support inspired, and

there is no person under the same, or similar circumstances, but would have formed the like conclusion. ~~was a proposal, to repeat at such a time, to repeat the~~  
 12<sup>th</sup> of June here, & in place of the distinct trial it prescribed, to substitute others, neither limited in number, <sup>nor</sup> duration, nor yet in the degree of accuracy required when with the Claimant was at this 72, would never have been heard of, had not the weak, but very full & overbearing character described as compromising character described takes his seat among the Commissioners; part of whom, we hope, never conceived his motives, but the other part compromised their integrity by ~~support~~ the unqualified support they gave his propositions. Unqualified in every sense! It were impossible to withhold contempt from such proceedings. <sup>What</sup> It appears he had a

giver him to procure a bill to amend, explain & alter (so it proper) the original Act. ~~Which legislative provision was left~~ The manufactory of which legislative pro-



from being friendly towards the Claimant, he became  
from that time the decided enemy of the hapless  
old man; who, in contemplation of the success of the  
Timekeeper, ~~tells us~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~he~~ considered the reward as more  
"his own as any Freeholder does his property." — And  
is there any man in England, may it not be fairly asked,  
who would not have formed the same conclusion under  
the same, or similar, circumstances?

As the rest of the Commissioners were "shorn off  
their beams" by the imposing refulgence of their Mana-  
ger, or ~~represented~~ reflected only the scattered rays  
he condescended to impart at (brief) intervals. They may  
be regarded as ~~as~~ so many men of straw, clad in buck-  
ram, or in Federal green when the P. R. S. took his  
seat among them to assume the attributes of a Turkish  
magistrate, by being accuser, witness, judge & jury in a  
cause in which he made no secret of, or, we may say, he  
gloried in being himself a party: it becomes consistent  
with propriety to designate, <sup>them</sup> only by their representative,  
and to ~~make~~ state that the terms his Lordship, <sup>them</sup> dictated,  
somehow contradictory, at a meeting composed exclusively  
of admirals, civilians & Merchants, to the number of 15  
more, that, on the Claimant's disclosing the principles &



-vision, albeit, was left exclusively to his choice  
 & <sup>to page</sup> Discretion. ~~This strange circumstance that the public~~  
~~never suspected; nor yet that the corrective for~~  
 the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 1846 was little other than a Transcript  
 of those resolutions which this philosopher by pre-  
 -scription had before been frustrated in attempting to  
 enforce on the acceptance of the Candidate; but which  
 he had now a glorious opportunity of compelling him  
 to swallow ready cut & dry, without troubling him-  
 -self about the digestive faculty of our unfortunate  
 mechanician: while, notwithstanding his Shivalrous  
 surname, he seems to have chattered at having got his  
 opponent within his power, with all the littleness of  
 a plebeian mind: — and how came the Commissioners,  
 "all honourable men," to make such a disgraceful  
 stalking horse of the pretences for their present resolves?  
 when they might have said (if they were not disposed to  
 forego the use of their senses) that they were ~~indulging~~  
 at once indulging his low energy & a <sup>love</sup> ~~love of that~~ of  
 display, which might be regarded as the bread & butter  
 of ~~that~~ <sup>made</sup> our man of quality: whom they, the Director  
~~of their consciences~~ of — their consciences, it would  
 scarcely be hyperbolic to add. For what was the ta-  
 -lisman, or amulet? — the secret which yawning Nades



~~construction of the Timekeeper to certain persons, to be~~  
named by the Board, he should receive as much money,  
exclusive of what had been advanced for the improve-  
ment of the Invention, as when added to the £2,500 be-  
fore mentioned, would be equal to half the reward, or  
£10,000. The other moiety was to be paid on proof be-  
ing produced, that his method would be of common &  
general utility for finding the Longitude at sea, with-  
in the nearest limits &c. But, ~~as before observed, without~~  
~~any defined means of~~ ~~was prescribed for~~ ~~ascertaining such proof; & this~~ ~~was~~  
~~not to be reconciled~~ ~~either to the spirit, or the letter,~~  
of the 12<sup>th</sup> of Queen Anne; ~~the right prescribed and directed~~  
~~by which, whether a proper one, or not, was a valuable~~  
~~feature from. Having that consideration, however, this~~  
~~feature for preventing, a candidate from being discouraged~~  
~~by unfavourable conjectures & uncertainty, as well as~~  
~~for abridging the page~~ ~~WW~~  
~~which, under the former commission, he~~  
~~had strenuously rejected; understanding, in these words,~~  
~~at the conclusion of his second set of resolution,~~  
~~"it is impossible to know before hand whether the~~  
~~Explanation to be given by Mr Harrison will be so full~~  
~~& clear as to put in their power to publish the prin-~~  
~~ciples of his Watch or Timekeeper, in such a manner as~~



125  
alone could reveal, by which a character fitted  
only to <sup>shine</sup> ~~feel~~ in a contested election, could since his  
colleagues in Lethe, or gorge them with lotus so effectually,  
that to discharge the stain, thus acquired, would be as  
fruitless hopeless as to wash the blackamoor white.

The Discovery would be comical, had  
not the joke ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> so extremely serious to the in-  
vector of the Timekeeper, that — among the multitu-  
dinous accomplishments of the extraordinary biped whose  
trides, among men of more confined intellect, might  
be likened to those of Gulliver at Lilliput, was  
— Parliamentary management, which, ~~it is now found~~  
~~to have been~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>being</sup> hobby, in common with the management of the  
separate Commission; ditto of the Royal Society,  
ditto of the Board of Longitude, or any other Board,  
commission, or meeting whatever, from a council  
of state, to a turnpike trust, the members of which  
chose to tolerate, instead of grappling with so much  
impertinence, & <sup>gisting</sup> ~~ousting~~ him by the head & shoulders.

— He was no sooner ~~To page 127~~ <sup>To page 127</sup> ✓



"will enable other workmen to make other such instru-  
-ments for the same purpose." — He would yield to no  
remonstrance, nor abate a particle of his consummate judg-  
-ment on this point head. Which was the cause that that  
measure became entirely useless; after it had been  
attended with some trouble to all concerned with it  
(except the ingenious manager) some expense to the  
public & seven months loss of time to a man above  
seventy years of age — who was now to receive £7,500  
for that which he had been refused £1,000 for having  
fully offered to do before.

Now let it be observed, that his Lordships  
comments on the Candidate's refusal to conform to  
the mode of manner of explaining he required, which  
was to be by making more tools, making more Time-  
-keepers (without money) & afterwards trying them in  
some way not defined was on the face of their minutes  
the ostensible cause reason for the reward not being  
promptly paid and yet with an effrontery which might  
have been expected from a Jeffries, a Trevelyan, or  
"the wisest, brightest, meanest of mankind" but nei-  
-ther from an experimental Philosopher, nor a Phi-  
-losopher by experiment, he now actually adopted  
the course he had deprecated a few minutes before &



126 Note to page 22 at ~~□~~ ~~What then~~ But what becomes  
of Mr. Bird's opinion? his patrons seem to have left him  
in the lurch. Yet it will subsequently appear he did  
himself no disservice by this servile truckling to their  
sentiments; for such it was, if he understood the sub-  
-ject, & if he did not, he should have kept his notions  
to himself.

Note at page 31  $\Delta$  The case of the Duke of Athol contrasts  
so remarkably with that of John Harrison, that it may  
be thought worth while to place them in juxtaposition.  
— The proneness of mankind to concede ~~an undue~~  
~~an undue~~ an undue deference to rank & riches,  
while the philosopher in vain maintains that equity  
requires ~~that~~ there should be but one rule of decision  
both in the major & minor transactions of society (except  
at Sparta, where the money was <sup>of</sup> no use, or among the  
Moscowites & other Tribes, where it is unknown) was  
pointedly illustrated by the present affair — which  
shows that the sagacious & often quoted in Ecclesiaste-  
-cus. chap. 13 verse 23. is of very extended application. —  
“When a rich man speaketh his tongue, & look, what  
“he saith, they st<sup>d</sup>ol it to the clouds: but if ~~the~~  
~~the~~



as being utterly inadequate to the intended purpose & a  
hastening to impose on the public. If it be alleged, he  
had no alternative; that had he attempted wholly to re-  
fuse the reward till more Timekeepers were made & tried  
to his satisfaction, the public indignation would have  
compelled him to retrace his steps to the Family mansion,  
north of the Fens, sooner than seemed accordant with  
the season of the year. The answer is, that he had no  
business to interfere, if he desired to save his <sup>own</sup> credit, or  
that of his colleagues whom he was involving in an incon-  
-sistency of vital importance to the Claimant, & im-  
-peaching their discernment in the Trust they were de-  
-puted to exercise, by making them parties ~~to~~ in  
those personal views & party motives which, as he could  
not keep his own counsel, he had suffered to ~~transpire~~  
transpire on more than one occasion.

After having constrained himself to cut his own  
words in this strange way, it became expedient (as the  
minutes show) to resort to Parliament for a stomatic  
fracture which the state dispenses ~~to~~ to Digest egotis-  
tick credities, as well as to promote the salus populi-  
rum. And as some people will drink the waters at Bath,  
~~and~~ <sup>not, because</sup> they have a fine pair



127 "The poor man speaks, they say, what fellow is this?  
"and if he stumble, they will help to overthrow him."

Some time in the last century the progenitors  
of the Duke of the Athol being hereditary feudal Lords  
of the Isle of Man, & as such, possessing certain rights,  
privileges & immunities annexed to the royalty thereof,  
producing a revenue, the amount of which, when  
we have time, may soon be learned in Downing Street,  
but being unable to guard the coasts of their ~~to~~  $\text{O } \text{£}134$

from ~~W~~  $\text{£}125$  brought into the form of the

~~from it was meant to affect~~ ~~said to sub himself~~  
downiness) but he immediately became ~~up for the~~

Note at  $\text{O } \text{£}143$  His Lordship might have credit for fall-  
-ling into the Admiral's wake, but his subsequent  
conduct was marked by such unceasing hostility  
to the Chairman, who, having ceased to be President  
of the Royal Society, he had no more right to in-  
-terfere with the proceedings of the Board than any  
other person, that no reliance can be placed on this fair  
spoken cajoling bullition of goodhumour.



of legs to show to the ladies, or can discover ~~so~~ some  
some important topic as to carry away the suffrages  
of the gentlemen, so Parliamentary management being  
a hobby horse which, however incongruous, the opposi-  
tion may wound the P. R. S. among his multi-  
tude, accomplishments, pretended to break in to the  
ring as dexterity as Alexander would Bucephalus,  
he seems (in the vulgar phrase) to have fallen on  
his feet when he was brought into the firm of the  
commission of Longitude consisting ~~either~~ <sup>either</sup> of sleeping  
partners (or of such as ~~affected~~ <sup>affected</sup> ~~dreaming~~) if he de-  
sired to become responsible for the whole concerns of  
the ~~Trade~~ <sup>establishment</sup>. Hence, though prepared by recent expe-  
-rience for some unwelcome novelty, the Author was  
not a little startled at stumbling on the following,  
in the journal.

During the time that this bill was in the House  
" Mr. Harrison did all that he could to oppose it, but  
" to no purpose. On the 27<sup>th</sup> he received a message, by  
" Mr. Gray, from Lord Morton, which was as follows. " I  
" Mr. Harrison, without he will agree to the resolutions  
" of the Board of Longitude of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. that this affair  
" shall never come to a decision in the House but only be  
" put off from time to time." — On receiving this message  
" Mr. William Harrison waited on the Earl of Morton &



127 continued

Note at Δ 4144 Mr. Mudge had

paid D. Hornsby the compliment of placing one of his  
Timekeepers under his examination, at Oxford; & from  
the Narrative (of his son) it appears the Professor was  
his distinguished friend: <sup>but</sup> yet, according to the above he  
was deficient in common courtesy to the original discoverer  
of the Longitude.

~~Yellows we knew Yellows was went to~~

~~And my Lord Norton~~  
as he seldom wanted brass enough, <sup>would</sup> ~~he might~~ have ~~been~~  
Jupiter



acquainted his Lordship with the message he had received  
& begged of his Lordship (as he found by this that he  
was the principal person that carried this will on)  
to let the whole affair drop, as he should never  
offer to comply with an act on such terms. But  
his Lordship did not comply with this request, but  
still kept on to get a new act."

The Claimant is here roundly told, in effect,  
~~though not literally~~, that at his peril be it, if he  
disputes the good pleasure of the manager; he shall  
not <sup>touch</sup> receive another shilling of the reward, but the  
business will be adjourned sine die. For this legislative  
tactician could advance, or countermark, any measure  
put forth <sup>under</sup> ~~his~~ his sign manual; & anon, wheel to the  
right about, or to the ~~opposite~~ left, in double quick  
~~time~~ time, leaving unmean-  
-ingly <sup>remote</sup> throw out in the race, his <sup>ill-fated</sup> unfortunate com-  
-petitor for distinction; sufficiently taught to know  
his distance from the P. R. S. who, as a pleasant  
~~and~~ <sup>would</sup> ~~be~~ ~~as~~ ~~far~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~stars~~ of himself, in his cups, was equal  
"to any thing between heaven & earth:" & no doubt,  
had his lot been cast in pagan times, ~~would have~~  
been detected ~~attempting~~ <sup>imitating</sup> <sup>counterfeiting</sup> the thunder of  
~~Jove~~, like Talmonius provided he had money



For we much doubt that Plutus would have lent him a doit, had he essayed to borrow of the churlish God, conformably <sup>consonant</sup> to the advice he gave the Candidate in a similar predicament. Nay, would not such so general & comprehensive a genius

These ideas need not be thought too extravagant; They are in unison with the entertainment ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> got up; in which the showman, ~~a personage~~ though inferior in understanding to his automations, could play them off successfully enough. Both the Lords & Commons passed the bill pro forma; the necessity for so gross an innovation, which instead of a one fair trial (more than accomplished) held forth an indefinite & interminable prospect was taken on trust from the Commissioners of Longitude; ~~a summary of~~ <sup>with the exception of a particular party</sup> the Commissioners, it so happened, were as easily imposed on as Sir Francis Brouncker, or his antient "family". In conclusion, when the curtain fell on this farce, the Manager might have turned round on all concerned, like Dick the carter, with no respectful gesture. — The threat, that if the Claimant did not succumb to his measures, he should hear no more of his recompence, which was throwing justice to the dogs, manifestly shows that the "Doubts & Difficulties" which the



enough to pay his workmen. Nay, would he not  
have run some risk of being turned into a mountain  
of Plum pudding marble, or copper-nosed projec-  
tion or — we know not what; like Hamus the  
enterprising son of Boreas & Orythia for pretending  
to supernatural attributes? In this view of the mat-  
ter we may well exclaim with the Preacher: "Verily  
every thing on earth is vanity" when an indivi-  
dual thus over-larded with scientific sound &  
grain in the last century is scarcely better  
known in this than Paul Phillips the parish clerk  
whom somebody remembered by his black & white  
car with one ear! ~~Maximum~~  
then seems to exclaim his gate there, while we repeat  
the terse but wholesome maxim: "in transitu glo-  
ria" ~~Maximum~~ The preceding extract is enough to elicit  
some astonishment from the Commissioners of the present  
day at the conduct of their predecessors in resigning  
the whole management of the public concern deputed  
to them to this bustling vain & overbearing character who is  
thus seen figuratively to place his chair on the table of the  
commission of Longitude while the House of Commons is  
dejaunt of due attention to the subject is exhibited in



Bowd pretended to entertain, & which resulted in  
his having free leave, or in assuming so, to nullify  
the 12<sup>n</sup> of Queen Anne, as far as was in his power, under  
pretence of explaining it, had nothing to do with  
what is discovered behind the scenes; which offers  
truth to the touch, — that these hostile demonstrations  
were entirely personal, though masked with a patriotic  
target, by this Sir Joseph Wittol of philosophers;  
who was his own Bully, at least on this occasion such  
occasions on such occasions: The Gentleman, whose  
name is introduced, being merely the bearer of a mes-  
-sage, <sup>the purport of</sup> which he did not interfere.

The interlude above, in which (leaving the pre-  
vious scraping to conjecture) sundry public functionaries  
danced to the tune first heard at the separate Commis-  
-sion, & figured away just as the rosined stick of this  
universal composer pointed to their parts in the per-  
formance, is most disgracefully discordant with the  
remarkable liberality of the Candidates' offers for the pub-  
lic advantage, October 21. 1761, before the Timescurer was  
sent to sea: & again on February 26<sup>th</sup> 1763, prior to the  
Barbadoes voyage. *to A page right hand leaf*

We now <sup>next</sup> turn to the new Act, ~~which~~ hitherto con-  
sidered as ~~the~~ proceeding from the Commissioners in their



perfect implicit subserviency to his private views &  
passions: — & our Claimant finding ~~it was expected~~  
~~he should dance to his Lordship's fiddle, whatever time~~  
~~he was pleased to scrap~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~& that the rest of the Board~~  
were diminished to so many men in buckram, <sup>or in Kerdal green,</sup> begged of  
the Earl to let the affair drop, as he should never of-  
fer to comply with the new act, as he understood it. This  
request was not attended to, & his Lordship passed his bill

Some may regret here that the Harrison's  
were neither of them men of the world sufficiently to  
know the value of a word fitly spoken, <sup>in due season</sup> by  
~~take advantage of that flattery~~ which it is highly  
probable this inflated peer, like most men of his descrip-  
tion, was very susceptible. Had a modicum of <sup>the Beggar's secret</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~ad-  
miration~~ <sup>the Sentimental Journey</sup>  
entered by the inventor of the Timekeeper in the form of  
some indirect admiration of his Lordship's genius for  
mechanics; such a compliment, from that quarter, would  
speedily have verified the <sup>classical</sup> ~~fact~~ sentiment "It gives  
me pleasure to be praised by you, whom all men praise":  
matters would have been adjusted with consummate prop-  
riety, & his Lordship's bill no where to be found but  
in the War archives. John Harrison however looked only  
straight forward, it would have seemed to him like putting  
on a fool's coat, to have compromised his sincerity in this  
way; & it was not to be expected he would adopt a policy



collective capacity, but who might just as well have been "at Greenland, Zembala, or the Lord knows where" for it was exclusively suggested, drawn up, & procured to be passed through the forms of Parliament, by James Earl of Morton — a person whom Newton would have sickened at the thought of numbering among his successors in the Chair of the Royal Society.

— This Act, to amend, & plain & alter that — according to their uniform construction of which, they were now, in a manner, defrauding him of the labour of most of his valuable life, recited — that on the Claimants disclosing the principles & construction of *to the right hand leaf*  
*Page 124*

He had now no alternative but either to renew his labours, interminably, if his arrogant enemy <sup>willed, or</sup> to relinquish his all claim to the second moiety of the reward, ~~or to renew his labours, interminably, if his arrogant enemy so willed, &~~  
 This at a time of life when most men, however active, desire to

Note at  $\square$  4145 The correctness of his Lordship's critique is disputable. Whatever was the literary tact he pretended to, ~~his~~ his never kept adroitly in some other points of view, leads to the apprehension that we should be often <sup>be</sup> reminded of the well-known couplet, from Dr. Young.



which cojoked the Archbishop of Granada out of his scruple  
at no higher price than that of <sup>to see</sup> seeing his Romilies writ-  
ten in a fine hand.

Had the curious disclosures <sup>in</sup> of the journal  
been waiting yet the Act bears internal evidence of be-  
ing wholly drawn up by the managers & may be fairly  
~~considered as an attempt to force on the sickle-shed~~  
~~in this modified form his former impracticable resolutions.~~  
~~It differed both in the letter & the spirit from~~ <sup>in subversion of</sup> ~~that which~~  
in the construction the commissioners themselves put on it  
(it can't be too often repeated) had been the polar star of  
renovated hope — the cheering solace of his labours many  
a revolving season & successive year. ~~Instead of a distinct~~  
~~& specific trail which, whether a proper one or not was a val-~~  
~~uable feature for preventing a candidate from being dis-~~  
~~couraged by unfavourable conjectures & uncertainty as well~~  
~~as for bridging disputes & preventing action at the Board.~~  
~~The act to amend, explain & alter the 12<sup>th</sup> ~~edition~~ of Inces-~~  
~~sure was copied from the 6<sup>th</sup> of his Lordship's resolutions~~  
~~which in substance prescribed that "when such other~~  
~~"articles as finished, they shall be tried to the satis-~~  
~~"faction of the Commissioners, in such manner as they~~  
~~"shall think proper." And this without the least regard to the~~  
~~Advocate's age, he being then 72, an age at which a~~



131 Rules for good writing they with pains write,  
Then show us bad by what they write.

~~The~~ unworthy treatment he experienced from his country-  
men, ~~represented~~ who were represented by the Commission  
of Longitude; whose power, again, centered in an individual  
of as inflated importance as Governor Sanchez at Barata-  
ria, but without his sterling merit — "from then forward  
a person as unfit as could have been  
found for a trust so transferred; since his knowledge  
of horological mechanics, & even of common business,  
was extremely to be questioned.

### Chap. ~~11~~<sup>8</sup>

At the first Board of Longitude held after the passing  
of Lord Mortons Act<sup>th</sup>, which met to take it into con-  
sideration, May 28. 1765. William Harrison, who was  
in attendance, being called in, & interrogated as to the mode  
in which his Father proposed to disclose the principles and



men desire to have the evening of ~~the~~ <sup>their days</sup> to themselves; & though  
the ruling passion was not diminished in John Harrison,  
it does not palliate the ~~intolerable prospect thus pre-~~  
~~sent~~ <sup>ed</sup> to him by the President of the Royal Society. He  
of course took the explanation of the bill to himself & as  
both the trials ordered & their result were to be to his satisfac-  
tion it will not be wondered that the claimant is found  
declaring "I considered the second moiety of the reward  
~~as~~ <sup>lost</sup> for ever. The first moiety" he continues "I obtained,  
" though it was with great difficulty, as the act required me to  
" explain my invention upon oath, & the Commissioners were  
" pleased to put into that oath words of an indeterminate & un-  
" limited meaning, & refused to explain them, or even permit  
" me or my son to ask what was meant by them. We at length  
" agreed to take it (finding we should never get any thing if we  
" did not —" This difficulty which bears evidence of the ma-  
nufacturing hand, may at once remind the reader of the  
oath with an ~~et cetera~~ promulgated by the court of  
Charles I. at an ominous period & adverted by Burke for  
its absurdity.

The Inventor proposed to explain the construction  
of the Timekeeper by delivering up the identical drawing  
with the written explanations annexed from which it was made.  
This he thought the properest mode, & sufficiently adapted  
to meet the intended object. Nor does it appear that the  
gentlemen & the watchmakers who afterwards saw the machine



Construction of the Timekeeper: Answered, "that he was  
 "commissioned by him to deliver ~~up the~~ ~~original~~ ~~Draw-~~  
~~ings with the~~ ~~Explanations~~ to the Board the inven-

"tical Drawings from which the said  
 "Timekeeper was made, with Expla-  
 "nations thereof, in writing:—

accomplished than

been specially

These Drawings, with the ex-  
 -planations that accompanied them, contained, ~~in the~~  
 Inventor's ~~of~~ thought, a proper disclosure of the partic-  
 -ulars desired to be known. Nor does it appear ~~the~~ ~~for~~  
~~them, & the~~ that the Gentlemen, & the Watchmakers  
 who afterwards saw the machine

John Harrison

† insert here

one of those wizards who are supposed to have a compact  
 with some imp. of Darkness.

For though, ~~as~~ ~~by~~ ~~his~~ ~~Lordship~~ nobody ever took his  
 Lordship for a conjurer,



taken to pieces & derived any essential information which  
they might not have procured by a careful inspection  
~~of those drawings & explanations.~~ <sup>of them.</sup> But Lord Morton ~~was~~ the  
"knew better than all the mechanics in London could have  
told him;" and his theory of the disclosure, had it not  
~~been~~ departed from in the practice, would have equally  
frustrated the patience of the gentlemen appointed to review  
the invention, & of the claimant, without prejudice to  
his own, for he was not there. There was something, be-  
sides both misplaced & irreverent in the repetition of  
solemn appeals; for every question put to our mechanicians  
either collectively, or individually, was to be answered upon  
oath, if required. The Harrisons, who perfectly understood  
the subject, thought that in such a prospectus circum-  
stances & points would occur, incapable from their  
indefinite & uncertain <sup>bearing</sup> nature of being subjected to the  
sacred form of an oath; which therefore, being consci-  
entious men they did not like to engage for. But they  
had a character & thrust on them, who could no more  
be dealt with, if you opposed his power, than Merlin the  
necromancer in Don Quixote. ~~This need not be thought~~ <sup>to be</sup>  
~~too figurative, since~~ his ostentatious message by Mr. Grey,  
implied that Parliament, at the touch of his wand, would  
either pass pro forma, or suspended session after session ~~that~~



That Act of the 5.<sup>th</sup> George 3. well known to the public at the time; but the origin of which, two years before, was a secret which the Witch of Endor could not have divined.

We now proceed with the resolutions, recorded in the plural, by a palpable misnomer, as being those of the Commissioners of Longitude: who were about as much concerned in this production as the sturdish on their table. If they could resign their understandings, along with the drafting of the new Act, to the discretion & judgment of a person who possessed neither, & was moreover rendered incompetent from motives of private umbrage; arising out of his obstinacy to a self evident proposition: to have revised their proceedings would ~~only have verified the~~ the sturdish proverb "when the sturd is stoler, shut the stable door." — It was ~~was~~ ascertained, that at the separate Commission the resolutions were brought ready manufactured to the meeting. Whether W. Ibbetson was officially employed at the present time does not appear; but the useless repetition of oaths characterizes the Manager's dictum, who, according to custom, never troubled himself about the sentiments of his colleagues — for no man, having common sense could differ in opinion with him — an assumption, so much the attribute of a blockhead, that <sup>he</sup> he has been contemporary with Pope, he would have run some risk of being provided for in the Dunciad. — The resolutions of the P. R. S. were —



~~The act to amend & alter which was solemnly pretended to  
have originated in the doubts & difficulties of the Board of  
Longitude, but was in reality a personal affair between  
John Harrison the mechanic & James Esq of Morton  
P. R. S. whose resolutions were~~

1<sup>st</sup> That he shall discover fully, by drawings & a written  
explanation, the principles upon which the said Watch is  
constructed, & deliver the same to this Board upon oath.

2<sup>ndly</sup> That he shall give a further explanation by word  
of mouth, & experimental exhibitions where judged necessary, of  
the said principles, & of every thing relative to the construction of  
the said Watch; producing the same, taking it to pieces, & an-  
-swering upon oath to every question proposed by the Board, &  
such persons as may be appointed by them for the examination  
thereof.

3<sup>rdly</sup> That he shall make over the property of the three  
several Timekeepers, & ~~the~~ the Watch, when he shall receive  
his certificate.

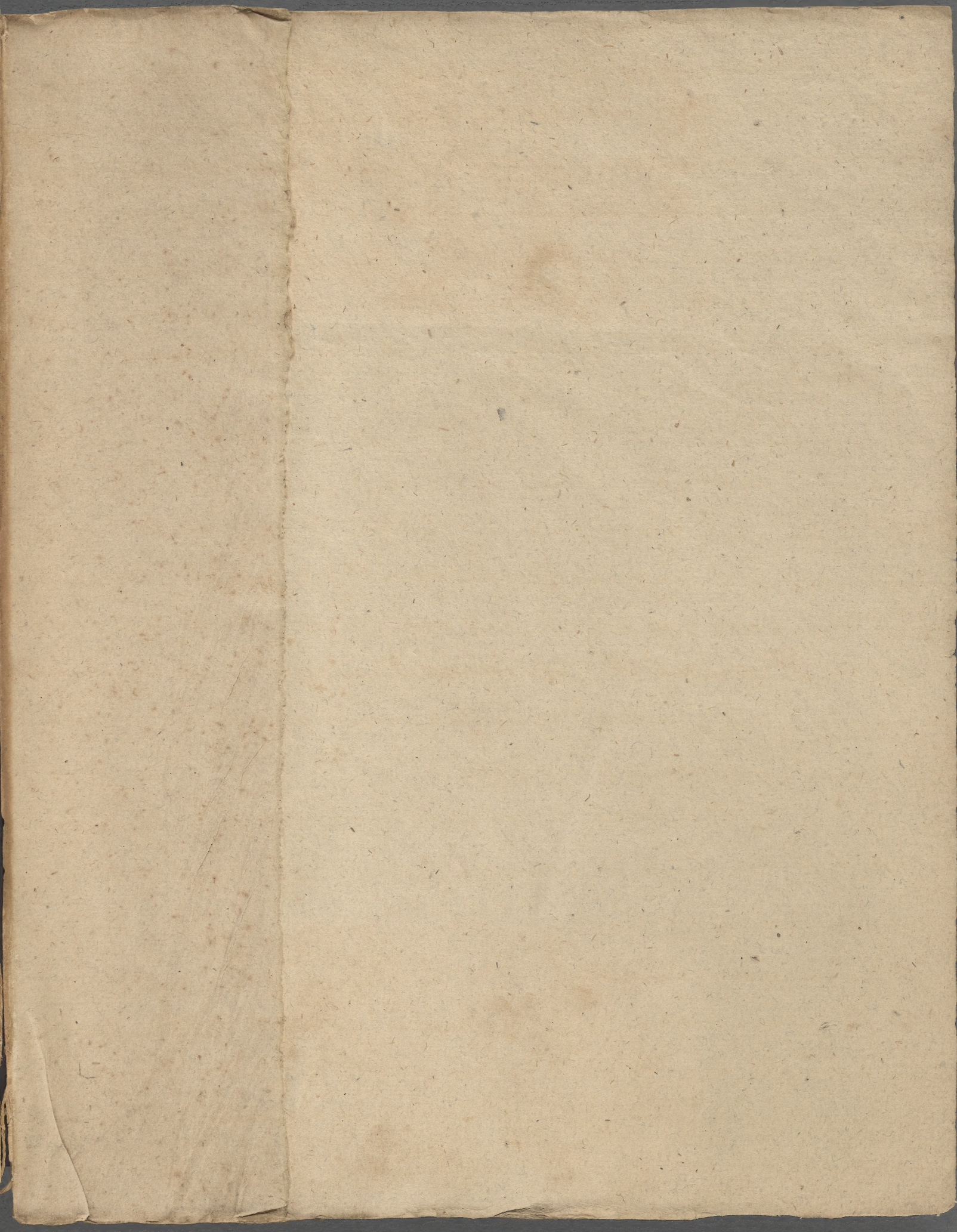
At the next Board, 30<sup>th</sup> May 1765 (see copy the Journal)  
" John Harrison & his son attended, & being called in, he told them  
" that he was not used to talking, therefore desired that his son  
" might speak for him, for that he had well acquainted him  
" with his mind, & whatever he should agree to, that he would  
" abide by. William Harrison then gave a verbal answer to the  
" Resolutions of the 28. in which he agreed to the first, the  
" first part of the second, & the last resolution; & endeavoured  
" to show the absurdity of the latter part of the second reso



134 from O page 127 insular domain sufficiently  
 to prevent smugglers from bringing more grist to the  
 mill than the regular people, to the detriment both  
 of the crown of England & the coronet of Athol & Mar,  
 it was concerted between the dignitaries that, in  
 in consideration of a specified compensation, those  
 privileges & immunities, with the emoluments  
 thereto appertaining should vest in, be transferred  
 thereafter to the executive of the state, & assimilate  
 with the public income for the common <sup>whood</sup> interest of  
 the <sup>state</sup> realm. — Howsomever, after a long spell (as Ben  
 Block would say) his Grace of Athol being of opinion  
 that the bargain was a bad one for his family, goes  
 down to Parliament, procures the contract to be ~~annul~~  
 rescinded, & a renewed & better agreement to be con-  
 -formed to him & his heirs.

The version which the son of Sirach gives  
 of such a business, in general terms, applies to every  
 people, tongue & kindred, where "money makes the man  
 "to go;" & may amuse as well as some modern apothegms  
 with the same meaning. — "When a rich man speaketh every  
 "man holdeth his tongue, & look, what he saith, they extol it  
 "to the clouds." The latter part of the ~~mentioned~~ sentiment  
 can well be spared; as it may suffice that this nobleman  
 continued   page 147







1734 from O page 127 insular Domain  
 to prevent smugglers from bringing in  
 with the regular people, to the  
 of the crown of England & the coronet of  
 it was covanted between the dignities  
 in consideration of a specified comp  
 privileges & immunities, with the  
 therunto appertaining should vest  
 thereafter to the executive of the state  
 with the public income for the com  
 the realm. — Now however, after a 2<sup>d</sup>  
 Block would say) his Grace of Athol  
 that the bargain was a bad one for him  
 down to Parliament, procures the con  
 rescinded, & a renewed & better agree  
 -formed to him & his heirs.

The version which the son  
 of such a business, in general terms, ap  
 people, tongue & kindred, where "more  
 "to go;" & may amuse as well as some m  
 with the same leasing. — "When a sick ma  
 "man holdeth his tongue, & looke, what he  
 "to the clouds." The latter part of the  
 can well be spared; as it may suffice that  
 continued



